AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently amended) A method for detecting von-Willebrand disease ~~(vWD)~~ comprising the steps of:
(a) detecting von-Willebrand factor (vWF) activity in a sample ~~comprising~~ using a soluble form or a portion of glycoprotein 1b(α) (GPlb(α)) and ristocetin or a functionally equivalent substance;
(b) determining the amount of vWF-antigen in said sample;
(c) determining the ratio between vWF-activity detected under step (a) and vWF-antigen determined under step (b) for said sample;
(d) comparing the ratio obtained under (c) to a range of ratios established as normal range; and
(e) detecting von-Willebrand disease based on the comparison result obtained under step (d).

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein detecting ~~von-Willebrand factor (vWF)~~ activity under step (a) comprises detecting ~~the~~ formation of a complex ~~of~~ comprising vWF and GPlb(α).

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said GPlb(α) is bound to a solid support.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said GPlb(α) is bound to said solid support by an anti-GPlb(α) antibody.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein said complex is bound to a solid support.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said complex is bound to a solid support by an anti-GPlb(α) antibody, by an anti-vWF antibody, by an anti-Factor VIII antibody or by collagen.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein detecting vWF activity under step (a) comprises using an anti-vWF antibody, an anti-Factor VIII antibody, an anti-GPlb(α) antibody, a collagen or mixtures thereof.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein detecting vWF activity under step (a) comprises using an heterogeneous or homogeneous assay.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 38, wherein detecting vWF activity under step (a) comprises using an heterogeneous assay selected from the group consisting of enzyme linked immuno sorbent assay (ELISA), a radioimmunoassay (RIA), an immuno radio metric assay (IRMA), a fluorescent immunoassay (FlA), a chemiluminescent immuno assay (CLlA) and an electro chemiluminescent immuno assay (ECL).

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein detecting vWF activity under step (a) comprises using an homogeneous agglutination assay.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the sample is obtained from blood, serum or plasma of a patient.

42-45. (Canceled)

46. (Withdrawn) A kit for detecting von-Willebrand disease (vWD) comprising:
(a) a soluble form or a portion of glycoprotein 1b (α) (GPlb(α));
(b) a ristocetin, or a functional equivalent substance; and
(c) a solid support.

47. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 46, wherein the said soluble form or the portion of glycoprotein 1b (α) (GPlb(α)) is a recombinant protein.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein detecting von-Willebrand disease under step (e) comprises discriminating between different types of von-Willebrand disease.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 48, wherein detecting von-Willebrand disease under step (e) comprises discriminating between von-Willebrand disease type 1 and type 2.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the soluble form or the portion of glycoprotein 1b(α) (GPlb(α)) is a recombinant protein.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, a synthetic antibody, or a fragment of an antibody.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said antibody or said collagen is detectably labeled.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein said solid support is selected from a group consisting of plastic, glass, silicon, metal, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, polypropylene, polyethylene, polycarbonate, dextran, nylon, amylose, natural or modified cellulose, polyacrylamide, agarose, magnetide and any combinations thereof.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said solid support comprises a latex bead.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said agglutination is measured by electric field variation, magnetic field variation, turbidimetric variation or light scattering.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the sample is diluted.

57. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein detecting vWF activity under step (a) comprises detecting a formed complex ~~of~~ comprising vWF and GPlb(α).

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein said complex is bond to a solid support.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein said complex is bound to a solid support by an anti-GPlb(α) antibody, by an anti-vWF antibody, by an anti-Factor VIII antibody or by collagen.

60. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the soluble form or a portion of GPlb(α) comprises an N-terminal domain of GP1b(α).

61. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the soluble form or a portion of GPlb(α) comprises amino acid residues His1-Val289 of GP1b(α).